US Immigration 1850 to present Balazs American Studies

[http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immi](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immigrant-population-over-time)

[grant-population-over-time](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immigrant-population-over-time)

NOTE: The graph has two different Y axis w/a common X axis.

1. What two issues related to immigration are provided by the two graphs?
2. The blue line’s slope is positive almost throughout the graph, what might account for that?
3. The blue line dips between 1930 and 1960, does this mean that immigrants returned to their native country?

The orange line is fairly flat but takes a deep dip between 1930 and 1970 before showing a steady but moderate increase while the blue line rises at an almost exponential rate.

1. How are the two lines related to one another and what might account for their similarity (positive slope) but difference in trajectory?

Although the Chinese Exclusion Act severely limited Chinese immigration to the US it wasn’t until the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the 1924 Immigration Act that broad immigration was strictly curtailed.  In contrast, the Immigration Act of 1965 vastly opened up immigration to people from all parts of the world. Most recently some legislators are proposing bills to limit immigration.

Making inferences based on graphs and history.

1. To what extent do you see the impact of those immigration acts in the graph data?
2. Based on the graph at what point do you think that concerns about “too many immigrants” hits a critical mass?
3. Is your point based off the orange or blue line and why?